

2015 NOV 15 P 2:05

## **Protest of the Bureau of Land Management's Notice of Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale in Wayne National Forest**

Dear Karen E. Mouritsen:

My name is Kerri Dobson and I'm a student at The Ohio State University studying for my PhD in Coral Reef Ecology.

I have reviewed the internet-based lease-sale for parcels of land in Wayne National Forest, and hereby object to the sale put forth by the Federal government concerning over 1,600 acres of mineral rights beneath the forest. My objections refer to the 28 parcels of land attached to this letter, and I object for the reasons outlined in the remainder of this letter.

### **Reason #1: Unknown impacts of fracking on drinking water.**

Fracking will likely pose a huge threat to the water resources within Ohio as fracking fluid contains toxic chemical compounds (US DOE 2009). If a water source is contaminated by fracking, or oil extraction, this would have extreme consequences for water quality (Sovacool 2014). In addition, wastewater from fracking sites can contaminate groundwater and aquifers and private water wells within the area (Argetsinger 2012).

The process of fracking itself requires large amounts of water, taking water resources away from other needs within the area (Gleeson et al 2012).

### **Reason #2: The impact which equipment, noise pollution, construction would have on wildlife and their habitats.**

The Wayne National Forest is an important ecosystem which would be detrimentally changed if sold off. Equipment brought in would decimate the land, as would construction. As an advocate for animals, I believe it important to give animals a voice. I do not feel it our place to invade and destroy possibly critical habitats for greed and wealth.

### **Reason #3: Environmental degradation**

Within the immediate area, both fracking and oil extraction are associated with the degradation of water, air, land, and public health. On a national and international scale, there are concerns about radio-nucleotides, global climate change, and the blocking of clean energy initiatives which must be pursued if we are indeed to meet climate emissions goals.

### **Reason #4: Anthropogenic global climate Change**

The importance of anthropogenic global climate change merits it to be a reason alone. It is currently one of the greatest threats of our generation.

The production and burning of oil releases carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere, whereas fracking releases methane (also a greenhouse gas) into the atmosphere, a gas which is able to trap 21-23 times as much heat than carbon dioxide (Sovacool 2014).

Anthropogenic global climate change is leading to increasing sea levels due to melting of the ice caps, increasing sea surface temperatures, and ocean acidification (decreasing ocean pH).

Each of these factors will impact humans, other species (both terrestrial and marine), and entire ecosystems. Therefore, it can be seen that while local fracking and oil extraction at first appears that it would only affect the immediate area, its effects are actually much wider-reaching.

We should no longer be relying on, and pursuing, the extraction of fossil fuel, but instead looking to renewable energies. It is unfair of our generations to continue to ignore the implications of anthropogenic global climate change for future generation who do not have a say in the state of the environment that they will inherit.

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In summary, as a career scientist, I do not support the sale of these public lands, on ethical and conservation grounds. I moved to Ohio from England in 2014, and have very much enjoyed the freedom and serenity of nature walks on public lands such as the Wayne National Forest. I believe that all national forests and parks must be preserved and maintained for the public, and within the present political climate it is increasingly important to take a stand to protect such areas. Please consider seriously these letters of protest and please halt the sale of these lands in the Wayne National Forest.

Sincerely,



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#### References cited

Argetsinger, B (2012) Marcellus shale: bridge to clean energy future or bridge to nowhere? Environment, energy, and climate policy considerations for shale gas development in New York State. *Pac Environmental Law Review*, 29: 321-343.

US DOE (2009) Modern Shale Gas Development in the United States: A Primer. Office of Fossil Energy and National Energy Technology Laboratory, United States Department of Energy.

Gleeson T, Wada Y, Bierkens M.F., & van Beek L.P. (2012) Water balance of global aquifers revealed by groundwater footprint. *Nature*, 488(7410): 197-200.

Sovacool B.K. (2014) Cornucopia or curse? Reviewing the costs and benefits of shale gas hydraulic fracturing (fracking). *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews*, 37: 249-264.

# **LIST OF PARCELS FOR SALE IN WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST**

11/5/2016

**Total # of Parcels: 28**

**Total Acreage: 1,622.11 acres**

**ES-003-12/2016 OHES 058185 ACQ**

Lee Township, Monroe County

Section 8, SENW, S2SWNE.

**60 acres**

**ES-004-12/2015 OHES 058186 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 14, NESE, Pt. SESE

**47.00 acres**

**ES-005-12/2016 OHES 058187 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 19, W2SE

**79.15 acres**

**ES-006-12/2016 OHES 058188 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 20, S3/4 NESW

**30.03 acres**

**ES-007-12/2016 OHES 058189 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 25

**94.72 acres**

**ES-008-12/2016 OHES 058190 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 26, NESW, Pt. NWSW

**78.25 acres**

**ES-009-12/2016 OHES 058191 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 27, SENW

**40.00 acres**

**ES-010-12/2016 OHES 058192 ACQ**

Jackson Township, Monroe County

Section 31, NESE  
**38.96 acres**

**ES-011-12/2016 OHES 058193 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 31, SESE  
**38.96 acres**

**ES-012-12/2016 OHES 058194 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 32, Pt. W2SW  
**64.30 acres**

**ES-013-12/2016 OHES 058195 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 33, NESW  
**40.13 acres**

**ES-014-12/2016 OHES 058196 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, Pt. SENE  
**15.12 acres**

**ES-015-12/2016 OHES 058197 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, Pt. NENW  
**30.23 acres**

**ES-016-12/2016 OHES 058198 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, Pt. NWNW  
**22.14 acres**

**ES-017-12/2016 OHES 058199 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 35, Pt. SENSWSWE  
**30.64 acres**

**ES-018-12/2016 OHES 058200 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 35, Pt. W2SWSW  
**0.86 acres**

**ES-019-12/2016 OHES 058201 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 19, Pt. SW, Pt. NW  
**73.25 acres**

**ES-020-12/2016 OHES 058202 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 15, Pt. SWNE  
**2.53 acres**

**ES-021-12/2016 OHES 058203 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 20, NENE  
**40.08 acres**

**ES-022-12/2016 OHES 058204 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 20, NENW  
**40.00 acres**

**ES-023-12/2016 OHES 058205 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 20, NWNE  
**40.00 acres**

**ES-024-12/2016 OHES 058206 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 21, S2SE, E2SW  
**157.44 acres**

**ES-025-12/2016 OHES 058207 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 34, NESESE  
**10.16 acres**

**ES-026-12/2016 OHES 058208 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 30, SESE  
**39.98 acres**

**ES-027-12/2016 OHES 058209 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 30, Pt. N2SE  
**64.72 acres**

**ES-028-12/2016 OHES 058210 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County

Sec. 36, SESW, Pt. W2SW  
**39.65 acres**

**ES-029-12/2016 OHES 058211 ACQ**  
Jackson Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 36, NENE  
**40.22 acres**

**ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE  
**28.00 acres**

**ES-031-12/2016 OHES 058213 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 6, Pt. NE  
**56.00 acres**

**ES-032-12/2016 OHES 058214 ACQ**  
Green Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 1, SWSW, Sec. 7, N2SE, SESE  
**158.62 acres**

**ES-033-12/2016 OHES 058215 ACQ**  
Washington Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 18 Pt. W2NE, Pt. NW  
**58.14 acres**

**ES-034-12/2016 OHES 058216 ACQ**  
Wayne Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 3, NWNW  
**40.24 acres**

**ES-035-12/2016 OHES 058217 ACQ**  
Liberty Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 29, Pt. S2SESE  
**1.17 acres**

**ES-030-12/2016 OHES 058212 ACQ**  
Perry Township, Monroe County  
Sec. 3, Pt. N2SE  
**28.00 acres**